

November 15, 2014

Re: Atina Manvelian

Dear Madam/Sir:

It is a with honor and humility that I write on behalf of Atina Manvelian's application for the Clinical Science PhD program at the University of California, Berkeley. I have known Atina for more than three years and am very impressed with her as a student and person. She has done excellent work in her years here at UCSB, taking an interdisciplinary approach to her education and mastering more topics than most do. Atina has shown a deep commitment to using her ingenuity and vitality to conduct research and to better the lives of others. She is one of the most passionate and conscientious students I have had the pleasure of working with, and I am confident that she would be an valuable asset to UC Berkeley's Clinical program.

I got to know Atina more when she earned an outstanding grade in my Soc 152A (Sociology of Human Sexuality) course. Next, I invited her to be in the small honors class (Soc 152B) that I was offering for the best 17 students from the large 152A class (which has 600 students each quarter of the year). In this small class, I got to know Atina very well and was moved by her incisive comments and ability to motivate her peers. I decided to make her the coordinator of our Advanced Topics in Human Sexuality course (Soc 152C), the last class in the human sexuality series—open only to students who do exceptionally well in my honors course, exhibit excellent communication skills, and demonstrate an ability to write strong research papers.

As the coordinator of Soc 152C, Atina was in charge of the development and maintenance of our class website called www.sexinfoonline.com, an online platform dedicated to proliferating comprehensive sex and relationship education to the local and international community. Currently, our class conducts research and publishes articles about human sexuality, answers individual inquires through our portal called, "Ask the Sexperts, and reaches 190 countries around the world. Atina's duties as the class coordinator included leading and facilitating all class discussions and keeping track of everyone's weekly tasks and grades. She also conducted research and wrote a number of articles for our website on dyadic communication skills and relationship education—topics that engaged her expertise and passion.

Atina is the best class coordinator we have had to date. She is one of the most hard-working, honest people you could hope to know, and she made significant contributions to the growth of our classroom's productivity. Rather than a dreamer, Atina is a scholar with a keen eye for excellence. She is a natural leader with a wonderful sense of humor that everyone enjoys. She is very empathetic and will be a caring and hard-working professional who will earn the respect of many of her colleagues. Moreover, she has outstanding communication skills: she speaks clearly and dynamically, capturing her audience's attention by the clarity with which she explains things. Her kindness and empathy make her uniquely suited to work with disadvantaged or underrepresented populations, and her optimism and intelligence will resonate and empower anyone she works with. She is exceptionally well organized and an excellent writer—making sure that her work and the work of others

are done professionally, carefully, and with attention to detail. Her courage and tact in discussing challenging topics is a talent that will serve her well as a clinician and team member in graduate school and beyond.

After working with Atina for three years, I have no doubt that she will be one of the makers and changers of the next generation as clinical researcher and psychologist. Atina's philanthropic involvements, research experiences, and invaluable contributions to our human sexuality courses only confirm her deep dedication to the study of relationship science and psychopathology. She is both an excellent student and a happy, well-adjusted person who is a pleasure to work with and is well liked by her fellow students and by the other faculty with whom she works. As a very sophisticated and enthusiastic person who has already accomplished so much, it is with strong conviction that I recommend Atina to your PhD program in Clinical Science where she will be able to use her intelligence and initiative to conduct research, make new discoveries, and create programs to better the lives of others. If I can be of any further help to you, please do not hesitate to phone me at (805) 967-4995.

Sincerely,

John D. Baldwin
Professor
baldwin@soc.ucsb.edu